Dust pollution by Iron ore on Goa

407. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the problems of dust pollution due to transportation of iron in Sanvordem Taluka of South Goa is becoming acute and has caused havoc to public health and agriculture of the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to meet this serious situation

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Dust pollution is caused at Sanvordem Railway Yard where the iron ore is transferred from goods trains to trucks for onward shipment to Marmagao Harbour for export.

(c) Government had constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of the local M.LY.A. to assess the problem of dust pollution in Sanvordem and suggest the mitigative measures to control it. The Committee recommended the shifting of the railway yard to the new location at Xelvona. This alternative could not solve the problem but would have meant degrading fertile agricultural land around Xelvona. Therefore, the State Government has interlia taken measures to contain the pollution problem which include the following:

(i) A compound wall has been constructed around the stacking yard to contain the ore and prevent its erosion to the surrounding locality.

(ii) An entry and exit gate has been constructed which regulates the movement of trucks on defined roads.

(iii) The road adjacent to the stack yard has been provided with adequate drainage facility to regulate the flow of polluted water during the monsoon.

(iv) Trees have been planted around the stack yard and the road to contain the dust pollution.

(v) The Government have directed the concerned compaines as well as he traffic police to maintain strict control over the unloading and loading of ore and take mitigative measures while the trucks are on the move.

(vi) The South Central Railway and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation who are responsible for mineral ore transportation have been asked to proved permanent water sprinklers to control dust pollution.

Poaching of tigers in National parks and Sanctuaries

408. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of poaching of tigers in the National Parks and Sanctuaries;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents reported to his Ministry during 1993, 1994 and so far in 1995 and

(c) the steps taken to stop poaching and to increase the tiger population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Reports of seizure of tiger bones and skins are a pointer to continuing incidents of tiger poaching in India, due to demand for these items in the international market.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.